

the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened."

A decade prior to the irregular ratification of the 27th Amendment, one of my constituents, Gregory Watson, was a 19-year-old student at the University of Texas at Austin tasked with writing a term paper for a course in American Government. Through his research, Watson stumbled upon a still-pending proposed constitutional amendment that the First Congress had offered in 1789, pursuant to Article V, to the State legislatures for ratification pertaining to the compensation of Members of Congress. Despite the intriguing nature and depth of research of his paper, Watson earned a grade of "C" on it, and in the class overall. That grade stood for 35 years until May 2017 when the overall course grade was officially raised to an "A" by UT—Austin upon formal petition of Watson's former professor.

Unfazed at the time by the original low grade on his paper, Watson began in the Spring of 1982 reaching out to seek sponsorship of the proposed constitutional amendment in state capitols across the United States. In 1983, the Maine Legislature became Watson's first success story. After that, in 1984, Colorado's lawmakers gave their approval at Watson's urging. And from that point forward—with Watson pressing every step of the way—the proposal's momentum strengthened until it officially became the 27th Amendment to the Constitution on May 5, 1992, when the Alabama Legislature approved it, just over 10 years after Watson first learned of it. Later that month, both Houses of the 102nd Congress voted to accept the 27th Amendment's unorthodox path to final ratification.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the story of a determined student should serve as a reminder of how much influence average citizens can have if they will step up and get involved in the political process.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I introduced earlier today: the Equal Employment for All Act. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate today by Senator ELIZABETH WARREN.

According to a recent report, an increasing number of employers have been using credit reports, specifically consumer reports bearing on the consumer's creditworthiness, credit standing or credit capacity, as part of their hiring process. However, unless the job position involves significant financial responsibility, the use of a credit check for employment raises the obvious issue that a person's credit history has little to do with his or her qualifications for a job.

Far too often, employers turn down "credit challenged" applicants because they have erroneously linked credit scores to potential job performance. Even worse, the "credit challenged" have fallen victim to deceptive marketing practices by credit report companies or credit counseling services that charge outlandish fees that supposedly rehabilitate credit scores to help with employment.

The Equal Employment for All Act would right this wrong by amending the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks by employers as part of the hiring or firing process unless the job involves national security, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation clearance, or significant financial responsibility.

With the passage of the Equal Employment for All Act, some of our most vulnerable, "credit challenge" citizens including students, recent college graduates, low-income families, senior citizens, and minorities, would be given the opportunity to begin rebuilding their credit by obtaining a job.

I also want to thank Senator WARREN for her leadership and partnership on this important piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in my district on the central coast of California. This weekend will mark twenty-five years since the establishment of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Referred to by many as the Serengeti of the Sea, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration designated the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 1992. Twenty-five years later, thanks in large part to this designation, the central coast of California has become a vibrant international tourist destination. Millions of people from all over the world now travel to my district to enjoy the pristine natural beauty of this Sanctuary, creating not only cherished memories for visitors, but also thousands of jobs for local residents. Among these destinations is the Monterey Bay Aquarium, a world-renowned aquarium where thousands of visitors every year learn about the rare and diverse ecosystems that thrive within the giant kelp forests of the Sanctuary.

While several generations on the central coast of California have always known the Monterey Bay to be a place of protected natural beauty, a sanctuary designation was a long-delayed dream for many. While a Marine Sanctuaries Study Bill was first proposed in 1967, it was not until the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 that the Environmental Protection Agency was authorized by Congress to regulate commercial activities in offshore areas. Thus, Congress delegated power to the Executive Branch to create federally protected marine sanctuaries. Unfortunately, despite tireless local efforts to achieve this designation for the Monterey Bay, the Reagan administration dropped the area for consideration as a sanctuary in 1983. The Congressman at the time recalled recently that when he approached then-Interior Secretary James Watt to lobby for the designation, he pointed out a picture on the wall of the room of a beautiful coastline, using it as an example of the kinds of areas worthy of conservation. Secretary Watt allegedly replied, "Looks like a good place for an oil rig."

However, this did not stop the residents of the central coast from achieving their long-held dream. In 1988, Congress voted to re-authorize the Sanctuaries Act, and the Monterey Bay was included in the bill as a proposed sanctuary. It was an important step, but much work remained to make certain that the Sanctuary would be large enough to ensure the protection of the coastline from offshore oil drilling, and other practices that would harm the delicate ecosystem within the Monterey Bay. Finally, on September 18, 1992, Congress authorized the designation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary through legislation proposed by Congressman Leon Panetta. My father has referred to this many times as one of his proudest moments, and it certainly stands as one of his greatest accomplishments.

Of course, the thanks for the establishment of the Sanctuary should not go to just one man. Rather, it was the culmination of decades of tireless work by hundreds of citizens and public servants. Their determination preserved a living postcard to pass on to the future generations. The endless hours dedicated to this monumental achievement stand as an enduring testament to what is possible when citizens take an active role in our democracy. When Americans put their minds to something, anything is possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in taking a moment to recognize the value of conserving areas like the Monterey Bay. Preserving our nation's natural beauty has a long and storied tradition spanning over a century, with champions from both political parties. Let us now, then, commit ourselves to the continued preservation of our nation's public lands, now and forever.

CONGRATULATING THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Alliance to Save Energy on its 40th Anniversary. Founded in 1977 following the oil embargo, the Alliance has been dedicated to improving the energy efficiency of the United States. It was established by Senators Charles Percy, a Republican from Illinois, and Hubert Humphrey, a Democrat from Minnesota, reflecting the organization's deep bipartisan roots and commitment to practical approaches to policy; a philosophy that guides the Alliance's work today.

The benefits of energy efficiency are broad. Not only does using less energy save money for American families and businesses on their utility bills, it allows our nation's valuable resources to last longer and produce more for our economy. When we can power our nation with domestic resources, we don't have to rely on foreign sources and the risks that accompany them. For this reason, energy efficiency and energy security are just as intricately linked as they were in 1977.

Improving energy efficiency in federal buildings remains one of my top priorities, particularly when it can be done through common-